

REMARKS

Claims 10-32 are currently pending; of which claims 26, 31 and 32 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 10-24, 26-27 and 29-32 will be pending in the present application, including previously-withdrawn claims 26, 31 and 32 as amended to depend from allowable independent claim 10. By this Amendment, claims 25 and 28 are canceled, and claims 26-27 and 29-32 are amended. Claims 25 and 28 have been cancelled to expedite allowance, however Applicant reserves the opportunity to pursue patent protection for the subject matter of these claims by further prosecution of this or another application. Reconsideration of this application, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Allowed Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action of September 2, 2005, the Examiner acknowledged the allowable subject matter of claims 10-24. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's favorable review.

By this Amendment, claims 26, 27 and 29-32 are amended to depend from allowable independent claim 10. While claims 26, 31 and 32 were previously withdrawn, these dependent claims are amended to depend from allowable generic claim 10. Applicant therefore requests that claims 26, 31, and 32 be rejoined with the pending claims.

Claims 26, 27 and 29-32 have been further amended for proper antecedent basis with independent claim 10, from which these claims now depend. Support for these amendments is found throughout the application, as filed. As each pending claim now depends from allowable independent claim 10, claims 10-24, 26-27 and 29-32 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Formal Request for Interview

If the present application is not considered to be in condition for allowance, Applicant requests an interview with the Examiner to discuss the present application and the prior art of record. Applicant's Attorney Daniel J. Hulseberg may be reached at telephone number (212) 294-3310 to schedule a mutually convenient date and time and to provide assistance or additional information as required.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant thus respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final be entered by the Examiner and the rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn.

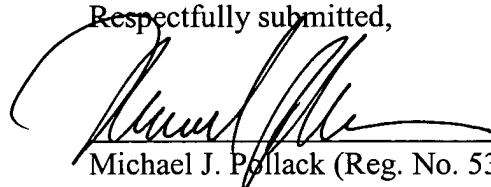
Applicant submits that this Amendment After Final and the accompanying Remarks do not raise new issues for consideration or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner because all of the elements and their relationships were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. This Amendment After Final should therefore allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Applicant also submits that entry of this Amendment After Final and the accompanying Remarks would place the present application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of any of the pending claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the previous rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn, and that claims 10-24, 26-27 and 29-32 be allowed. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this paper to Winston & Strawn Deposit Account No. 50-1814, Ref. No. 86012-31400-USPT. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and such fee should also be charged to Winston & Strawn Deposit Account No. 50-1814, Ref. No. 86012-31400-USPT.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 3, 2006

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